

What is claimed is:

1. A method for obtaining a substantially pure population of hematopoietic stem cells, comprising:
  - (a) contacting a biological sample comprising cells with an affinity agent which binds to endothelial protein C receptor (EPCR) under conditions appropriate for binding to occur; and
  - (b) separating cells that bind to the affinity agent from cells that do not bind to the affinity agent, thereby producing a substantially pure population of hematopoietic stem cells.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the affinity agent is an antibody or fragment thereof.
3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the step of separating cells is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of: column chromatography, fluorescence-activated cell sorting, magnetic bead separation and direct immune adherence.
4. The method of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the biological sample comprising cells is selected from the group consisting of: bone marrow cells, embryonic yolk sac, fetal liver, fetal and adult spleen and blood.
5. A substantially pure population of hematopoietic stem cells isolated by a method of any one of claims 1-4.
6. A method for obtaining a substantially pure population of EPCR+ cells, comprising:
  - (a) contacting a biological sample comprising cells with an affinity agent which binds to the endothelial protein C receptor (EPCR) under conditions appropriate for binding to occur; and
  - (b) separating cells that bind to the affinity agent from cells that do not bind to the affinity agent, thereby producing substantially pure population of EPCR+ cells.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the affinity agent is an antibody or fragment thereof.

8. The method of claim 6 or 7, wherein the step of separating cells is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of: column chromatography, fluorescence-activated cell sorting, magnetic bead separation and direct immune adherence.
9. The method of any one of claims 6-8, wherein the biological sample comprising  
5 cells is selected from the group consisting of: bone marrow cells, embryonic yolk sac, fetal liver, fetal and adult spleen and blood.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the EPCR+ cells are human EPCR+ cells.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the EPCR+ cells are murine EPCR+ cells.
12. A substantially pure population of hematopoietic stem cells consisting  
10 essentially of EPCR+ cells.
13. A method for treating a subject using hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, comprising: implanting into the subject the substantially pure population of human hematopoietic stem cells of claim 5 or 12.